Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Traumatic brain injury is a serious, national public health epidemic affecting at least 5.3 million Americans; and,

Whereas, Every 23 seconds, someone in the United States will sustain a traumatic brain injury; and,

Whereas, In the next year, 1.4 million Americans will sustain a traumatic brain injury; and,

Whereas, Each year, another 80,000 Americans sustain life-long disabilities from a traumatic brain injury, resulting in a life-altering experience that can include the most serious physical, cognitive, and emotional impairments; and,

Whereas, The rate of combat-related brain injuries in soldiers returning from current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan appears to be higher than in previous wars, at nearly 20 percent; and,

Whereas, The lack of public awareness is so vast that traumatic brain injury is known in the disability community as the nation's "silent epidemic"; and,

Whereas, The Brain Injury Association of America has recognized March as brain injury awareness month; and,

Whereas, The designation of the state brain injury awareness month will work toward enhancing public awareness of traumatic brain injury:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 2009 as

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Nineteenth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State